

**South Asian Migration to the United States**  
**AAS 325J (32455) / ANS 372P (32710) / HIS 365G (39275) / WGS 340 (46005)**

Instructor: Dr. Aarti Bhalodia

**Course Description**

In this course we will cover migration of people from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to the United States. While studying the history and culture of South Asian America, we will discuss globalization, transnationalism, migration, assimilation, discrimination, and gender and sexuality. The course is arranged chronologically and thematically. We will start in the nineteenth century following the journey of the first South Asian migrants to the U.S. We will then move on to studying the formation of Bengali-African American, Punjabi-Mexican American, Indian-Puerto Rican, and other multiracial communities. We will study how American immigration laws have facilitated or inhibited South Asian migration to the U.S. in the twentieth century. Topics covered include economic and social reasons for migration, adaptation to American life, cultural and religious assimilation, changing family structures, and discrimination and exclusion. We will end the semester by discussing South Asian American life in the twenty-first century.

This course carries the Cultural Diversity in the United States flag. The purpose of the Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag is for students to explore in depth the shared practices and beliefs of one or more underrepresented cultural groups subject to persistent marginalization. In addition to learning about these diverse groups in relation to their specific contexts, students should engage in an active process of critical reflection. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one underrepresented cultural group in the U.S.

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students>

**Course Objectives**

Through the semester we will study more than a century of South Asian American history. An important goal of this course is to highlight the diversity within South Asian America. We will encounter a diaspora whose members belong to different religious, linguistic, economic, and social groups. Many came to the United States in the pursuit of higher education. Others hoped to achieve the “American Dream.” We will also examine South Asian American interactions with other racial groups in the fields of social activism and community development.

I will make regular announcements on canvas. It is your responsibility to check the course webpage or turn on notifications.

**Required Reading**

You can find most reading assignments by clicking the “modules” tab in Canvas. We will read selected chapters from the following, plus other articles.

Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013).

Vivek Bald, Miabi Chatterji, Sujani Reddy, and Manu Vimalassery edited, *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of U.S. Power* (New York: NYU Press, 2013).

Amy Bhatt, *High-Tech Housewives: Indian IT Workers, Gendered Labor and Transmigration* (University of Washington Press, 2018).

Judith M. Brown, *Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Knut A. Jacobsen and R. Pratap Kumar edited, *South Asians in the Diaspora: Histories and Religious Traditions* (Boston: Brill, 2004).

Karen Leonard, *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992).

Vijay Prashad, *Uncle Swami: South Asians in America Today* (New York: New Press, 2012).

Shalini Shankar, *Desi Land: Teen Culture, Class, and Success in Silicon Valley* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008).

### **Assignments and Grading**

Attendance and Class Participation: 10%

Migration stories: 10%

Small research project: 10%

Class presentation: 20%

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Class participation: Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will affect your grade. You are responsible for completing all the assigned readings **before** each class meeting. Participation in class activities is crucial and a component of your final grade. We will have regular class discussions based on required readings in which you are expected to participate. If I am not satisfied with class participation, I will give a pop quiz.

Class etiquette: During lectures you should be listening attentively to the instructor and taking notes. All PowerPoint slides will be posted on Canvas. During class discussions all students are required to treat each other with respect. Students who are repeatedly disruptive will receive a poor class participation grade. Disruptive behavior includes showing up to class late, leaving early, talking to a neighbor while class is in session, talking/texting on a phone, checking email/playing computer games and sleeping. I strongly encourage you to use pen/pencil and paper to take notes and put away your electronic devices.

Class environment: My goal is to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and civility. Please do your part in making this possible. This involves being respectful of one another, having an open mind, and being willing to have your ideas challenged. Demonstrate respect by listening to others and refrain from interrupting. When posting or asking questions, use professional language. In some cases, course material or discussions may make you uncomfortable. When this happens, remain open-minded, and remind yourself that others are entitled to have their own perspective.

Class presentation: This is the undergraduate version of “show and tell.” You will bring an object to class related to any theme that we have discussed in the course. Besides material objects you can also focus on famous South Asian Americans or characters from popular culture. Prepare an oral presentation that is approximately 8 minutes in length. Individual class presentations will be spread over multiple days. You need to present on the day you signed up for. Along with the class presentation, you will also submit a five page (double spaced) essay related to your topic. This assignment is worth 20% of the overall grade.

Exams: You are responsible for completing two non-cumulative exams, each worth 25% of the overall grade. Both will be in-class exams consisting of short answer and short essay questions. Bring an unused blue book and pen to class on the day of the scheduled exams.

Grade	
A	93+
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D+	67-69.99
D	63-66.99
D-	60-62.99
F	<60

Deadlines: All assignments should be submitted on canvas by the due date. Late work will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Generally, except in the case of an excused absence, work submitted after an assigned deadline will not be eligible for full credit. For every day that you are late, you will lose one letter grade on that assignment. Please communicate with me if you are having problems keeping to the schedule.

If you are having trouble in class or are dissatisfied with your grade, come see me promptly. Don't wait until the end of the semester to seek my guidance on how to improve your standing in the course.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lectures, slides, videos, and assignments, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. Any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

### **Academic Integrity**

As per University policy, those who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Refer to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php> for more information on academic integrity, plagiarism, and consequences of academic dishonesty.

### **The Sanger Learning Center**

All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

### **Accommodations**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-410-6644 (video phone).

<http://sites.utexas.edu/disability/>

If you have a disability you need to notify me during the first two weeks of the semester and provide appropriate documentation from SSD (Services for Students with Disabilities).

### **Counseling and Mental Health Center**

The Counseling and Mental Health Center serves UT's diverse campus community by providing high quality, innovative and culturally informed mental health programs and services that enhance and support students' well-being, academic and life goals. To learn more about your counseling and mental health options, call CMHC at (512) 471-3515. If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, call the CMHC Crisis Line 24/7 at (512) 471-2255.

### **Emergency Situation**

Please familiarize yourself with recommendations from the Office of Campus Safety and Security (512-471-5767) on what to do in the event of an emergency.

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: [utexas.edu/emergency](http://utexas.edu/emergency).

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050. <https://besafe.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>

### **Title IX Reporting**

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our community, the university can:

- Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
- Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
- Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

### **Health and Safety**

The exposure action chart offers guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 or if you test positive.

[https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus\\_exposure\\_action\\_chart.html](https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus_exposure_action_chart.html)

The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line is a service that provides faculty, students and staff an opportunity to discuss their concerns about another individual's behavior. Trained staff will help callers explore available options and strategies. They will also provide appropriate guidance and resource referrals to address the particular situation. You can share concerns about health, safety, disruptive behavior, COVID-19, academic accommodations, and much more.

<https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>.

**The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus. All changes will be announced on canvas.**